EXHIBIT 26

31

SO, DRIVEN BY BURNING CURIOSITY, AS WELL AS A DOCTOR'S OBLIGATION TO TREAT THE SICK, I BOARDED THE FIRST PLANE TO THE ORIENT...

THIS TRIP TICKET SET ME BACK PLENTY, BUT I DON'T MIND! IT'S FOR A WORTHWHILE PURPOSE!

THE LAMA WHO HAD SENT FOR A DOCTOR, LIVED IN A HIGH, REMOTE PART OF THE SNOW CAPPED HIMALAYAS!

YONDER IS THE DWELLING PLACE OF THE WISE ONE!

I HOPE I SHALL BE ABLE TO CURE HIS ILLNESS!

INSIDE THE PALACE I WAS GREETED BY THE LAMA'S CHIEF AIDE!

I AM AFRAID MY MASTER WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PAY YOU FOR YOUR SERVICES! HE HAS NO MONEY

NO MONEY?? BUT THIS PALACE--THESE TREASURES --THEY MUST BE WORTH A FORTUNE!

I HAVE SPOKEN! THERE WILL BE NO PAYMENT!

VERY WELL! I CAN'T REFUSE TO TREAT A SICK MAN! IF I MUST, I'LL TREAT HIM FOR NOTHING!

A MOMENT LATER, I RECEIVED THE SECOND SURPRISE!

TO REACH THE LAMA YOU WILL HAVE TO WALK OVER SACRED GROUND! PLEASE REMOVE YOUR SHOES! LEAVE THEM WITH ME... AND YOUR BAG, ALSO!

BUT MY BAG --I'LL NEED MY INSTRUMENTS--

YOU WILL NOT NEED THEM HERE! I HAVE SPOKEN!

I TOOK OFF MY SHOES, PARTED WITH THEM AND MY BAG, THEN ENTERED THE ROOM!

NO PAY, NO SHOES, NO INSTRUMENTS-- WHAT A STRANGE SETUP YOU'RE IN, DOCTOR ANTHONY DROOM!

THEN SUDDENLY, BEFORE MY UNBELIEVING EYES THE FLOOR BEGAN TO CHANGE!!

THE FLOOR!! IT'S TURNING INTO A-- A BED OF HOT COALS!!

DOCTOR DROOM, YOUR PATIENT AWAITS YOU! GO THROUGH THE DOOR ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE ROOM!

B-BUT THE FLOOR'S COVERED WITH FLAMING HOT COALS! I CAN'T WALK OVER THEM! MY FEET WOULD BURN TO A CRISP!

2

32

AS THE GORLION SPRANG, I DROPPED TO THE FLOOR!

NOW THE MENACING BEAST WAS BEHIND ME! IT TOOK A MOMENT FOR HIM TO TURN, AND IN THAT MOMENT THE LAWS OF NATURE WERE ONCE AGAIN DEFIED!

SWIFTLY, DOCTOR DROOM--CLIMB THE ROPE TO THE BALCONY ABOVE!

THAT ROPE IS RISING IN THE AIR BY ITSELF!

MADE IT! AND NOT A SECOND TOO SOON!

I-I'M STILL ALIVE! THANKS TO A ROPE THAT NEVER HEARD OF GRAVITY! AND NOW-- WHAT FANTASTIC THING HAPPENS NOW??

BUT WHEN I PULLED OPEN A DRAPE, I SAW THAT I HAD AT LAST COME TO THE END OF MY JOURNEY!

YOU--YOU ARE THE SICK LAMA?!

I AM THE LAMA, BUT...

AND THEN CAME THE NEXT SURPRISE!

I AM NOT SICK! I AM MERELY A VERY OLD MAN WHO HAS REACHED THE END OF LIFE'S JOURNEY!

BUT I DON'T UNDER-STAND--IF YOU'RE NOT ILL, WHY DID YOU SEND FOR A DOCTOR??

I SHALL EXPLAIN! ON EARTH THERE ARE MANY OCCULT FORCES--THINGS STRANGE AND SINISTER! FORCES WHICH ARE A CONSTANT THREAT TO MANKIND! FOR YEARS I HAVE USED MY MYSTICAL KNOWLEDGE TO FIGHT THESE EVIL FORCES, BUT NOW... NOW I CAN FIGHT NO MORE!

4

34